

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /142 W

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O P 191617Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1171

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL: VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, EEC, NATO, GW
SUBJECT: U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONS: FURTHER FRG PRESS
REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S CHICAGO REMARKS

REF: (A) BONN 4258, (B) BONN 4216

BEGIN SUMMARY: MARCH 19 GERMAN PRESS REACTION IS MORE
TEMPERED ALBEIT STILL CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS IN CHICAGO. SECOND THOUGHTS IN SOME EDITORIALS
REFLECT RECOGNITION THAT U.S. POWER REMAINS ESSENTIAL TO
GERMAN SECURITY. OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE DIRECTED
WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO GOVERNMENT AND REQUESTED BUNDESTAG
DEBATE THIS WEEK ON ATLANTIC RELATIONS. SENIOR FONOFF
OFFICIAL GAVE TWO-HOUR BACKGROUND BRIEFING MARCH 18 TO
INTERNATIONAL PRESS, STRESSING THAT U.S. WAS FULLY
INFORMED ON EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, THAT U.S./EC CONSULTA-
TIONS MUST BE IMPROVED AND THAT FRG INTENDS TO MAINTAIN
CALM PUBLIC POSTURE. END SUMMARY

1. IN FRONT PAGE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE EDITORIAL, ROBERT
HELD TERMED PRESIDENT'S "HARD WORDS IN CHICAGO A
SETTLING OF MANY ACCOUNTS--/OR THE WORDS OF
JOBERT WHICH CONFRONTED AMERICAN WITH GAULLIST SELF-
RIGHTEOUSNESS; FOR ALL THE WOUNDS IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL
PRIDE; FOR KISSINGER'S LONELY SUCCESSES IN THE MIDEAST;
FOR MALICIOUS PLEASURE BEYOND AMERICA'S SHORES ABOUT
THE WEAKENED DOLLAR; FOR THE SLIGHT RESPECT FOR AMERICA
IN MANY FIELDS; FOR THE INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO WATER-
GATE; FOR THE CONSTANT DISTANCING THEMSELVES OF
AMERICA'S ALLIES AND FRIENDS; FOR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING
OF U.S. WORLD POLICY; TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT THE OIL
DEBATE. IN ALL THESE MATTERS, THE GERMANS WERE INVOLVED,
AND NOT ACTING WITH CAUTION. AND SO THE CHICAGO SPEECH
HAD NOT A WORD HINTING THAT THE FRG IS EXCUSED FROM
SOME OF NIXON'S CHARGES."...HELD SAYS THE AMERICANS
HAVE NEEDED SOME TIME TO GET USED TO THE FRG OF THE
1970'S, WHICH THEY BELIEVE HAS ACCEPTED THE LATEST
STYLE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM. IN 1973 BONN DID IN FACT LOOK
ON AMERICA AS A SICK COUNTRY, ONE THAT NEED NOT BE
KEPT IN CLOSE CONTACT. MANY OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE,
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INCLUDING LABOR UNIONS, MUST ASK THEMSELVES IF WITH SUCH
TENDENCIES THEY HAVE DAMAGED THE CAUSE OF THE FRG.
BESIDES, CONTENTS HELD, "AMERICA REMAINS AMERICA. IF THE
U.S. TODAY DECIDES TO GO IN FOR A VAST RAW-MATERIALS
AUTARKY, TAKING IN ALL STRATEGIC AREAS AROUND NORTH
AMERICA, THEN THAT IS VERY SAD FOR THE WORLD'S ECONOMY.
IT IS NOT A QUESTION WHETHER SUCH A POLICY IS RIGHT OR
WRONG. THE POINT IS THAT ONLY AMERICA COULD DO IT; SUCH

A PLAN WOULD BE A REFLECTION OF STRONGER POWER POLICY."
IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HELD CONCLUDES THAT "OUR
RELATION WITH THE UNITED STATES MUST BE A DIPLOMATIC
REQUIREMENT OF REMARKABLE, ALMOST AWESOME PERMANENCE...
Y TILY LOST T
P FROM THE GREAT CONTINENT, NIXON SPEAKS
NOW - NOT AS THE WATERGATE NIXON, BUT AS THE VITAL VOICE
OF AMERICA. AND HE SUGGESTS THAT WE AND EUROPE HAVE NOT
COME OF AGE. THAT CAN BE DISMISSED AS BEING FOR
INTERNAL CONSUMPTION. BUT DO WE KNOW AMERICA'S VIEWS
AT ALL WELL ENOUGH? AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT AS IT IS TO
KEEP TRYING A NEW CLINCH WITH THE LORDS OF THE KREMLIN...
IT IS EQUALLY INDISPENSABLE FOR US GERMANS TO MAKE THE
ENDLESS EFFORT TO KNOW HOW PROMINENT AMERICANS ARE
FEELING...IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE GERMAN FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT HAS KEPT THAT POINT IN MIND CONSTANTLY

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 USIE-00 /142 W

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O P 191617Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1172

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
UFHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 7452
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
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ENOUGH."

2. WRITING IN THE FINANCIAL JOURNAL HANDELSBLATT, GUSTAV FERBER ASSERTS THAT POMPIDOU MAINTAINS THE GAULLIST VISION OF A EUROPE LED BY FRANCE BUT THAT BONN KNOWS PARIS IS NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER ITS EUROPEAN NEIGHBORS MILITARY PROTECTION OF A SORT THAT WOULD EVEN COME NEAR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE U.S. ATOMIC SHIELD. MOREOVER, THE FRENCH REGARD THEIR FORCE DE FRAPPE "AS AN EXCLUSIVELY NATIONAL FIGHTING ARM."

3. SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG WRITER DIETER SCHROEDER CLAIMS THAT "THE PRESIDENT'S THREATS TO EUROPE SEEM TO BE DOMESTICALLY MOTIVATED...BUT THESE ESCALATING COMPLAINTS FROM WASHINGTON REPRESENT A NEW KIND OF NIXON SHOCK EFFECT ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC." ACCORDING TO SCHROEDER, "THE CONSTANTLY ESCALATING COMPLAINTS FROM WASHINGTON WOULD BE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND IF THE AMERICANS WOULD SAY CLEARLY WHAT HAS SO EXCITED THEM, AND WHERE THEY WOULD LIKE TO GO...EVEN CONVINCED 'ATLANTICISTS' LIKE HELMUT SCHMIDT CAN HARDLY ADMIT THAT ALL THE GUILT FOR THE PRESENT ERA OF BAD FEELING EMANATES FROM THE EUROPEANS...THE NIXONIAN TENSIONS WITH CONGRESS COULD EXPLAIN THE PRESIDENT'S RAW NERVES...AND IT IS NOT TOO FAR-FETCHED TO SUPPOSE THAT PERHAPS NIXON WANTS TO ABANDON WASHINGTON'S PREVIOUS SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN UNIFICATION, AN INTENTION THAT THE LABOR VICTORY IN BRITAIN COULD EASILY HAVE STRENGTHENED IN

HIM - AND THAT HE SEEKS A WAY OUT OF HIS PERSONAL CRISIS IN A CONFRONTATION INSTEAD OF A RECONCILIATION WITH THE EUROPEANS."

4. HEINZ BARTH REPORTED IN DIE WELT THAT THE PRESIDENT "DREW SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE FROM HIS CONSERVATIVE AUDIENCE IN CHICAGO WHEN HE MADE HIS FRONTAL ATTACK ON EUROPE. IN VIEW OF RESENTMENTS PREVAILING IN AMERICA VIS-A-VIS EUROPE, ANY U.S. POLITICAL LEADER CAN COUNT ON A CERTAIN DEGREE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT IF HE USES BLUNT LANGUAGE VIS-A-VIS EUROPE." BARTH CONTINUED: " THE VIEW IS WIDESPREAD IN THE U.S. THAT AMERICA'S ALLIES SHOWED LITTLE GRATITUDE FOR THE GREAT U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO UNCLASSIFIED

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EUROPEAN RECONSTRUCTION AFTER WORLD WAR II. FOR TEN YEARS SENATOR MANSFIELD HAS BEEN CALLING FOR U.S. TROOP REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE. HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF A SAFE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS. THE ONLY REASON HIS CALLS HAVE NOT PREVAILED SO FAR IS THAT NIXON AND HIS TWO PREDECESSORS EMPHATICALLY WARNED AGAINST THE DANGERS INVOLVED IN SUCH MOVES FOR STABILITY AND PEACE IN THE WORLD. THERE HAS BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE REACTION FROM CONGRESS TO NIXON'S STATEMENT THAT WITHOUT EASING OF US-EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONFRONTATION IT WOULD BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING U.S. TROOP STRENGTH IN EUROPE. THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTION VOICED BY SOME CONGRESSMEN IS THAT NIXON CRITICIZED THE EUROPEANS AS A WHOLE RATHER THAN SINGLING OUT FRANCE, WHICH IS CONSIDERED IN WASHINGTON AS THE REAL SCOUNDREL IN THE ATLANTIC DRAMA."

5. IN A SEPARATE DIE WELT ARTICLE, GUENTER BOEDDEKER SAID THAT "THE EUROPEANS REALLY HAD NO REASON TO BE SURPRISED BY NIXON'S CHICAGO STATEMENT, AS TIME AND AGAIN THEY LET NIXON RUN INTO THE VOID LAST YEAR, GIVING RISE TO HOPES ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENT ONLY TO DASH THEM AFTERWARDS." BOEDDEKER SAID "NIXON'S CHICAGO STATEMENT PROVES THAT THE AMERICANS ARE TIRED OF DISCUSSING THINGS WITH THE EUROPEANS AND THAT THEY NOW ARE TRYING TO BRING ABOUT BY MEANS OF MASSIVE PRESSURE WHAT THEY FAILED TO BRING ABOUT BY MEANS OF CARESSING THE EUROPEANS, I.E., SECURE U.S.-EUROPEAN FRIENDSHIP."

6. THE BONNER RUNDSCHAU REPORTED THAT THE "SERIOUS DISCORD" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE WILL BE RAISED IN THE BUNDESTAG, AT CDU/CSU REQUEST, THIS WEEK. CDU LEADERS KOHL AND CARSTENS RENEWED THEIR ACCUSATION THAT THE FRG CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DISCORD BY MAKING SERIOUS MISTAKES IN REACTING TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDEAST

CONFLICT. SEVERAL PAPERS REPORTED THAT, AT U.S. REQUEST,
HELMUT SCHMIDT WILL DISCUSS THE "CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE"
WITH THE SECRETARY TODAY IN WASHINGTON. OTHER REPORTS
NOTE THAT THE SECRETARY INDICATED LAST SATURDAY TO
AMBASSADOR VON STADEN THAT U.S./FRG RELATIONS "CONTINUE
TO BE GOOD," THUS IMPLICITLY BLAMING FRANCE FOR CURRENT
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DIFFICULTIES. WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICER WARREN IS CITED
AS EXPRESSING U.S. INTEREST IN CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE

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O P 191617Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1173

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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UFHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 7453
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
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WITH THE EUROPEAN ALLIES.

7. A SENIOR

FRG OFFICIAL BRIEFED THE BONN INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS
MARCH 18 ON U.S./EUROPEAN RELATIONS. BESIDES POINTS
DESCRIBED IN SUMMARY, GERMAN OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT
LETTER FROM CHANCELLOR RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT CURRENTLY
IS BEING PREPARED, IN CONSULTATION WITH EC PARTNERS.
FRG OFFICIAL STRESSED THAT U.S. AND EC SHOULD CONCENTRATE
ON "OBJECTIVE PROBLEMS OF INDISPENSABLE ALLIANCE RATHER
THAN SEMANTICS OF DECLARATION." DE FACTO IMPROVEMENTS IN
CONSULTATIONS AND SOLVING CONCRETE PROBLEMS ARE IN FRG
VIEW MORE IMPORTANT THAN DECLARATIONS PER SE, A POINT
ALSO MADE IN DEUTSCHE WELLE INTERVIEW BY FONOFF STATE
SECRETARY APEL. OFFICIAL SAID FRG INTENDS TO KEEP ITS
PUBLIC COOL AND SEEK TO CALM ITS U.S. AND EC PARTNERS,
IN GREATER INTEREST OF ALLIANCE COHESION/SECURITY; PUBLIC
NAME-CALLING SHOULD BE AVOIDED. ABOVE ALL, SAID FRG
OFFICIAL, CURRENT ATLANTIC DISPUTE MUST NOT AFFECT ON-
GOING MBFR/CSCE/SALT NEGOTIATIONS OR ALLIED DEFENSE
ARRANGEMENTS.
HILLENBRAND

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 19 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Type: TE
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